

REMARKS

Applicant is submitting new copies of claims 1 and 11 with markings and identifying material to provide more accurate and detailed information with respect to the elements that are claimed:

In addition thereto, applicant is submitting further explanations that are thought to be helpful in the understanding of the claims.

With respect to "electrical variable flow resistance," applicant notes that this subject matter is also found in the German Patent 10 040 518 which is mentioned in the specification on page 3, line 26.

Applicant is also submitting a copy of the German Standards DIN ISO 1219-1 of March 1996 where under Section 7.3.3.1 hydraulic switching is shown to be achieved by electrical actuating elements. The symbols used there in that sheet of standards denote electrical actuation of hydraulic elements. These same symbols are also used in applicant's drawings of Figures 1-4 from where a person working in the art can know that valves 5 and 6 are electrically actuated.

With respect to the "valve assembly" recited in claims 1 and 11, this assembly can be comprised of either valves 5 and 6 (Figure 1) or the valves 5 and 6 and associated check valves 10, 11 (Figure 2) or 12, 13 (Figure 3).

In the embodiments according to Figures 1 and 2, the damping force is entirely carried out through the electrical adjustment of valves 5 and 6. The embodiment of Figure 3 provides for spring-loaded damping valves which are flowed through in only one direction and operate as check valves in the other direction. These check valves 12, 13 provide damping effects when they are flowed through.

Valves 16, 17 are disclosed to provide for hard damping effect, whereas valves 12, 13 are disclosed to provide soft

camping effect. By adjusting or setting the flow-through resistance of the valves 5 and 6, any desired damping effect can be obtained between hard damping and soft damping. This arrangement is possible because the flow-through resistance of valves 5 and 6 can be continuously set to any desired value between 0% (valve is entirely closed) and 100% (valve is entirely open).

Applicant is also submitting copies of Figures 1-3 with comments thereon that are thought to be helpful.

In view thereof, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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